

In 1992 Mr. Montalvo was appointed Commissioner of the City of Long Branch Housing Authority, while also serving as a member of the Long Branch Health Advisory Board. Later he founded the Latino American Committee, on which he served as President for many years. The LAC is responsible for many great things, such as collecting funds to be used in scholarships for Latino students and organizing the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Monmouth County, which exclusively serves the needs of Latino merchants and professionals.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Montalvo on his hard work and dedication to the Latino community. I would like to thank him for all that he has done and all those that he has helped through the years. I ask my colleagues to rise with me in honoring the distinguished Mr. Dimas Montalvo.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
JOSHUA NEUSCHE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 2003, a memorial service in honor of Army Specialist Joshua Neusche will be held at the Camden County Courthouse Square in Camdenton, Missouri. On this occasion, participants will dedicate a tree and marker on the courthouse lawn to the memory of one of our neighbors, a young man whose life was tragically cut short while he served his fellow Americans by wearing the uniform of a citizen soldier.

Spc. Josh Neusche of Montreal, Missouri, was a member of the Missouri Army National Guard's 203rd Engineer Battalion from Joplin. He deployed to Iraq with his unit in May 2003. During this deployment, Spc. Neusche became seriously ill and passed away on July 12, 2003.

By all accounts, he was an outstanding young man and a favorite among his friends. Josh graduated from Camdenton High School in 2002. A participant in a number of extracurricular activities, Josh played in the Laker Band and the Pep Band, ran for the award winning track and cross country teams, was elected 2002 Prom King, tutored children in the A+ Program, and volunteered with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Camdenton. He was a member of the Buffalo Prairie Baptist Church in Montreal, Missouri.

Prior to his Guard activation, Josh attended Southwest Missouri State University while holding a full-time job and finding time to volunteer at the Boys' Club in Springfield, Missouri. He inspired loyalty and affection from his friends, as evidenced by the fact that the members of his unit took up a collection after Josh became ill which allowed his family to visit him in the hospital in Germany.

In wartime, the very best young people our country produces are asked to risk and possibly lose their lives in order to advance our national interests. In peacetime, serving as an airman, sailor, soldier, or marine also requires a great deal of hard work and sacrifice. Whether in war or in peace, those sacrifices are particularly difficult for the service members' families.

We can only imagine the pain felt by Josh's family—particularly by his mother, Cindy, his father, Mark, and his brother, Jake—as they have been forced to deal with his untimely death and this sudden, unexpected loss. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his entire family and circle of friends.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Spc. Neusche for his service to our country. We also owe more than we can ever repay to Josh's family, who raised this young man and instilled in him the values that enabled him to succeed as an American soldier. On behalf of my fellow Missourians and my fellow Americans, I thank the Neusche family for their selfless contribution and immeasurable sacrifice.

HONORING WWII VETERAN TONY
VITKUS

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a veteran of World War II and a resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who is currently visiting our Nation's Capital for the first time in his life. His story is a remarkable one, and I'd like to share a few highlights with you.

Tony Vitkus served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific from 1942 to 1945. He was a rear gunner in a Dauntless dive bomber and survived a crash in that airplane. That very plane is now on display at the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum just a few blocks from here. This week, Mr. Vitkus went there and saw his aircraft.

Anyone familiar with the dangerous position of a rear gunner knows the immense risk that Mr. Vitkus took in serving his country in this capacity. And, as if this wasn't enough, he also served as plane captain of a Corsair fighter on the U.S.S. *Bennington*.

After the war, Tony Vitkus got married and raised six children while working in Kenosha as a milkman and later as a pool custodian. He has been an active member of the community, serving as an alderman and also on the Water Commission, and he stays active to this day.

It is because of Tony Vitkus and others like him that we prevailed in World War II. These courageous individuals and the military men and women who have followed in their footsteps are the reason we remain free to this day. We owe them our respect and gratitude for their service and many sacrifices for our country.

RECOGNIZING FATHER MIGUEL
VIRELLA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of Father Miguel Virella, a man dedicated to the advocacy of a solid educational foundation for the Latino youth. Father Miguel is being honored as a mentor and role model to the Latino

Community's youth by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County, Inc., for his positive influence and many contributions to the Latino community. In my mind there is no one more deserving to receive this award.

Through a strong family, Father Virella was taught that determination and compassion were imperative parts of living a devout life. His religious and academic journey was influenced by the teachings of his friends and family. It was his devotion to his faith that motivated him to pursue studies of a religious nature and eventually to join the priesthood.

In 1976 Father Miguel graduated from Juan Rios Serpas High School, in his hometown of Ciales, Puerto Rico. Soon after, he traveled to New Jersey with his family where he was introduced to the Religious Order of the Society of the Divine Word. His participation in this community led him to develop a deep interest in working with the poor and minorities of other countries. He could relate to the hardships endured by those who were starting a new life in America and his compassion for those in need compelled him to do all that he could to help.

In 1984, Father Miguel decided to continue his studies in Dubuque, Iowa at Divine Word College. Later, he enrolled at the University of Saint Louis, Missouri and was awarded a Bachelors degree in Sociology with a minor in Spanish. Father Miguel decided to continue his studies in Theology, for which he received a Masters degree in Divinity. He was ordained as a priest in the Society of the Divine Word shortly thereafter.

Following his ordination in 1995, Father Miguel was asked to minister at St. Anthony Claret parish in Lakewood, NJ where he remained for two years. Due to the large number of incoming Hispanic parishioners, he was later called to serve at St. Rose of Lima in Freehold. He remained there for four years serving as minister to his fellow Hispanics before moving to our Lady of Providence in Neptune, NJ, in January of 2001. Father Miguel still serves as the minister to that parish which is composed of over four hundred families.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Father Miguel Virella is an asset to the Hispanic community and should be lauded for his accomplishments. I ask that my colleagues rise up and join me in honoring this most respectable man, Father Miguel Virella.

HONORING DAN ECKSTROM FOR
HIS PUBLIC SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO PIMA COUNTY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to public service and serves as a shining role model in our community. I speak none other than of Mr. Dan Eckstrom who recently retired from serving on the Pima County Board of Supervisors in Arizona.

Dan is a native of South Tucson and a 1965 graduate of Pueblo High School. In 1969, he graduated from the University of Arizona, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government. In addition to his duties as County Supervisor, he has more than 30 years of progressive business management experience.